



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL APPROVES REVISED JOLIET WATER DEAL ENSURING MILLIONS IN FUTURE REVENUE

CHICAGO – Today, the Chicago City Council approved an updated preliminary agreement with the City of Joliet to provide Lake Michigan drinking water for the next 100 years. In late January, the Joliet City Council voted to select the Chicago Department of Water Management (DWM) as their provider after more than two years of research into possible suppliers. Joliet's current water source will no longer be sustainable by 2030, when DWM will begin supplying them water.

"The Chicago City Council's approval marks a significant step on a partnership that will deliver safe, affordable drinking water to Joliet's residents and businesses for generations to come," said Mayor Lightfoot. "This agreement will also serve as a model for even more mutually beneficial partnerships across our region as we work together as friends towards our many shared goals and values."

The ordinance passed today reflects updates to the preliminary agreement approved by the Chicago City Council in December. It establishes a water rate cap commensurate with that which Chicago provides to all existing regional wholesalers; adds specific language around the meeting and reporting structure of the Advisory Council comprised of wholesale water customers and extends the term of the supply agreement to 100 years.

"We believe that Chicago has two world class filtration plants that deliver quality water throughout the region and we are excited to include Joliet as our newest regional partner," said Jennie Huang Bennett, Chicago's Chief Financial Officer. "The new agreement with Joliet includes a transition to a cost-of-service model that will provide for greater transparency around rate setting and the operations of the water system for our regional partners."

Joliet will pay for the entire \$600-800 million of additional infrastructure needed to connect to the system including a 31-mile pipeline and upgrades to the Southwest Pumping Station.



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This agreement is projected to generate between \$24-37 million in new water revenues annually beginning in 2030 and approximately \$1 billion of present value to the City over 100 years.

The final water supply agreement is expected to be approved by October 31, 2021.

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